

RESOLUTION NO. 12-188

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that the Rosetta James Annual "2012 Honoring Our Elders" Celebration to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the beautiful campus of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University on March 10, 2012; and,

WHEREAS, Wiley Joseph Henderson is a native of Clarke County, Alabama. He is a distinguished graduate, longtime employee and current retiree of Alabama A&M University. He participated in further studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Auburn University, University of Tennessee and Central State University; and,

WHEREAS, Henderson has been actively involved in civic and community outreach programs for more than half a century. As a young professional, he organized a civic club to inform and increase voter registration in his rural south Alabama community. He also helped to organize a federal credit union to serve minority educators. For several years, he served as chairman of the board for this organization. Additionally, he completed terms as president of both the local Teachers and Parent Teachers associations. While serving as president of the local Normalite Alumni Association, he coordinated annual fund raising activities for Alabama A&M University. He remained at the forefront as a leader in his church. While serving as chairman of the trustee board, he spearheaded a fundraising effort that resulted in the building of a new edifice. He also served as superintendent for the Sunday School; and,

WHEREAS, upon moving to Huntsville, he and his family affiliated with the NAACP, Alabama Democratic Conference, and First Missionary Baptist Church. Currently, he is a board member for the Child Development Center at First Missionary Baptist Church. He also serves as an advisor for the Fellowship of University Students and participates in the Congregational Care and Keenage Ministries; and,

WHEREAS, over the years, Henderson has skillfully used his fraternal affiliations as a venue for community outreach. While serving as president of his undergraduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, he began a legacy of working with programs that enhanced the health, social and leadership skills of young black males. He has had the opportunity to continue this legacy by serving in the office of undergraduate advisor for more than 20 years. He further expanded his outreach to youth by serving as a leader with the Boy Scouts of America. His community outreach continues through volunteer fundraising. Annually, he participates in fundraisers for the American Heart Association, Muscular Dystrophy and the March of Dimes; and,

WHEREAS, as a retiree of the Alabama Higher Education System, Henderson continues to give full-time service to Alabama A&M University. His love and dedication for his students is exemplified in the many long hours he gives by always arriving on the job early and leaving late. Over the years his students nominated him for *Who's Who Among American Teachers* four times. He also received recognition as Professor of the Month and Teacher of the Year from the Student Government Association; and,

RESOLUTION NO. 12-188

Wiley Joseph Henderson, Page 2

WHEREAS, during three decades of tenure at Alabama A&M University, Henderson made substantial financial contributions to the university through payroll deductions and other venues. He gave leadership for the class of 1956 campaign to raise \$50,000 for the university. His fellow classmates presented him the Class Achievement Award at his 50th class reunion; and,

WHEREAS, his gardening skills give him the unique opportunity to share an abundance of fresh vegetables with friends, co-workers and needy families. The benefactors often request and enjoy his "green tomatoes." Others appreciate his fresh cucumbers, squash and peppers. He often describes himself as "a servant to all mankind," and his actions fulfill this declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Huntsville and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, hereby acknowledges the contributions of Wiley J. Henderson, honoree of the 2012 Rosetta James "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration, which acknowledges the best in volunteerism in Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley. Best wishes to the Board of Directors of the Rosetta James Foundation and the "2012 Honoring Our Elders" Celebration for continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 8th day of March, 2012

President of the City Council
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 8th day of March, 2012.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama